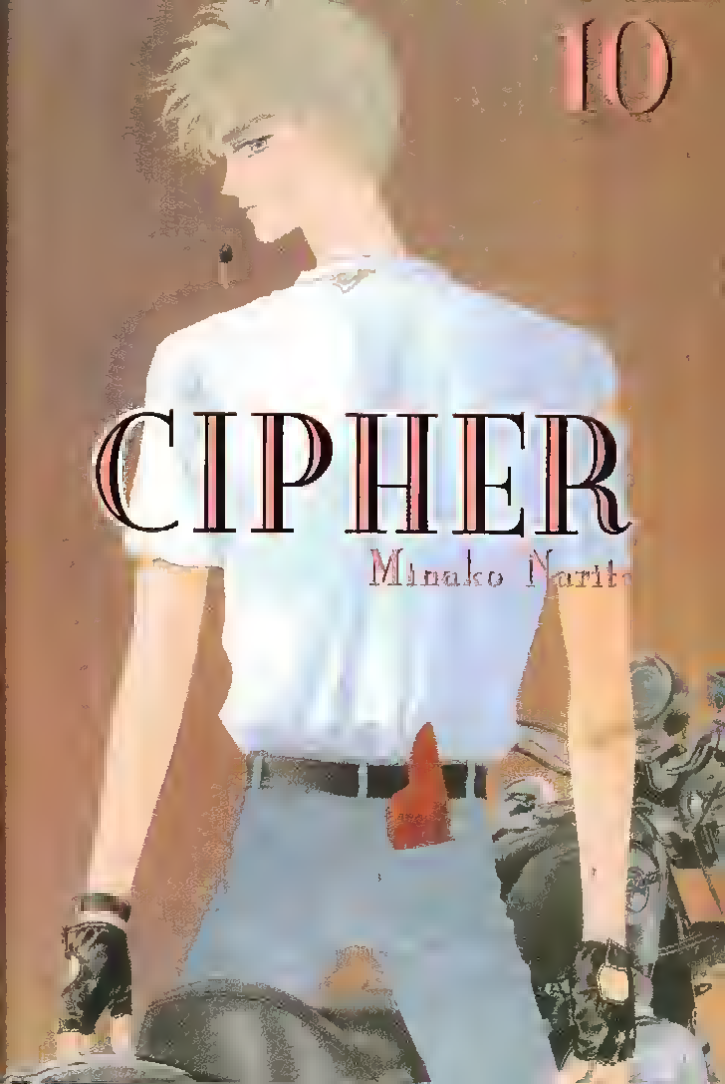
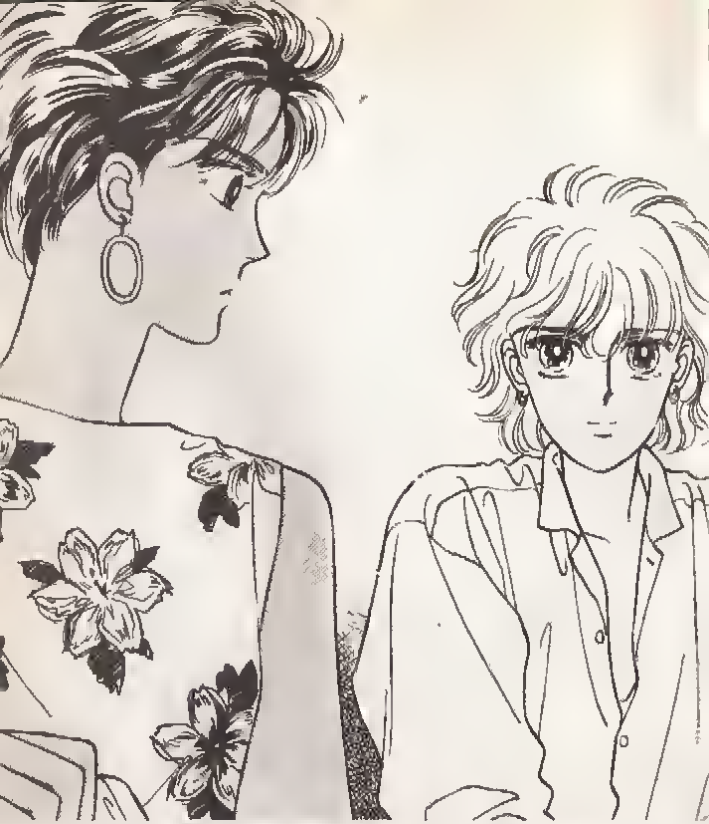

10
CIPHER
Minako Narita



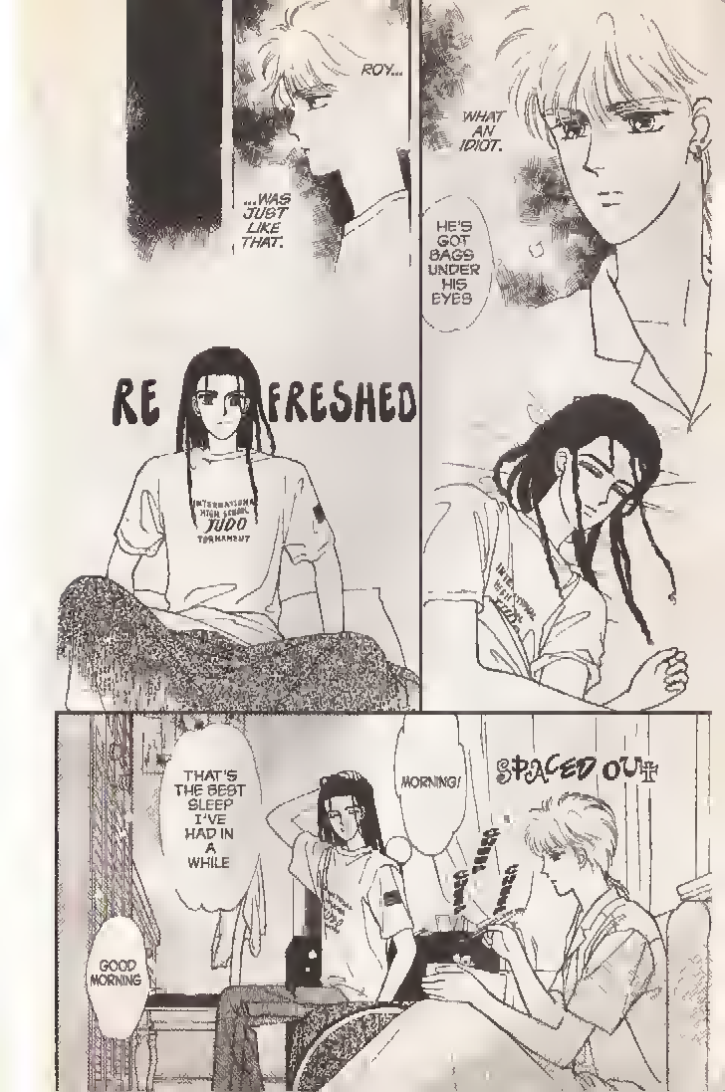
CIPHER

Volume 10

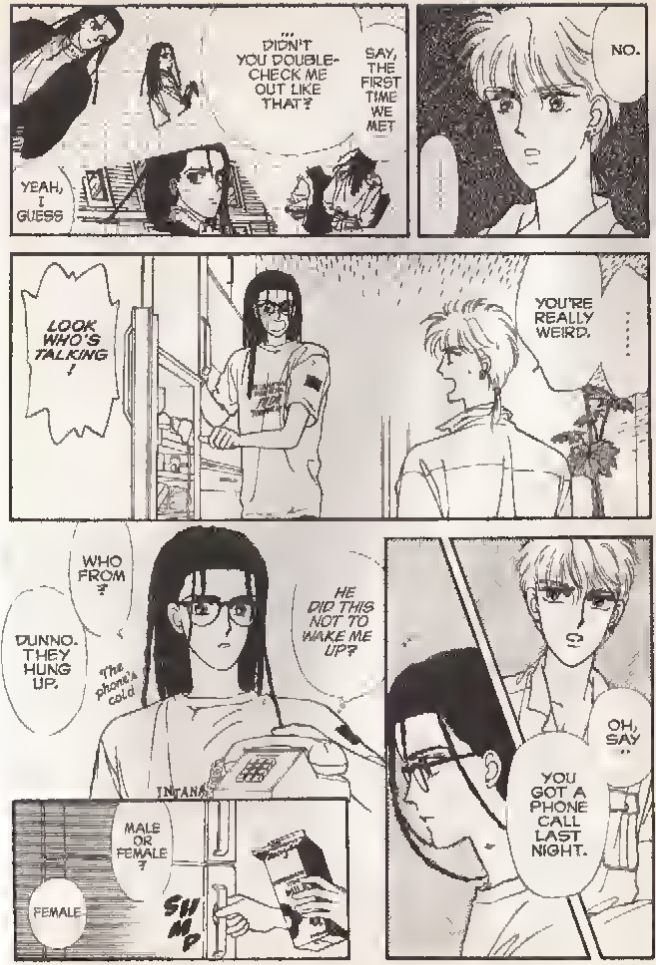
By Minako Narita

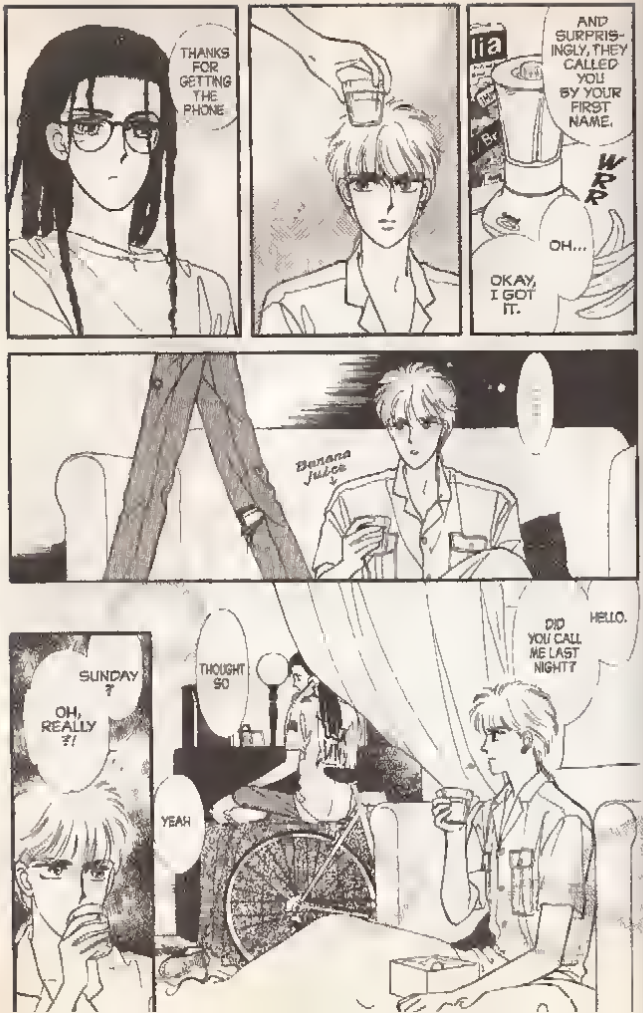
On days when he can, Iwaine comes to pick up the chick. Otherwise Sawa takes it to him.
TWIT
MAN.. YOU LOOK REALLY WORN OUT.
CHEEP? YOU MEAN HIM?
IT'S CHEEP'S FAULT. I HAVEN'T GOTTEN MUCH SLEEP RECENTLY.
THE LITTLE RUNT WAKES UP AT 4:30!
4:30 AM?!
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM? HE SHOULD SLEEP MORE.
The guy who gets up at 4:30.
...
DO I?
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
He started sneaking his glances because Sawa told him to.

You didn't know that?
EH?
JOLT
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!
HE WAKES UP WHEN IT STARTS GETTING LIGHT.
IF YOU COVER HIM WITH A CLOTH, YOU CAN CONTROL HIS SLEEPING CYCLE.
THANKS, MAN.
IF YOU DON'T MIND MY STAYING, I'LL FEED THE BIRD IN THE MORNING.
YOU GET SOME SLEEP TODAY.
Chilly
HE'S ASLEEP RIGHT NOW. I'M NOT WAKING HIM UP.
RING
HELLO, ALEX? THIS TIME IT'S SUNDAY
WH
MP
Zzz
RRING


ROY...
...WAS JUST LIKE THAT.
WHAT AN IDIOT.
HE'S GOT BAGS UNDER HIS EYES
RE FRESHED
INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL JUDO TOURNAMENT
THAT'S THE BEST SLEEP I'VE HAD IN A WHILE
GOOD MORNING
MORNING!
SPACED OUT

TODAY I WOKE CHEEP UP AT FIVE AND FED HIM
REALLY? THANKS!
CLICK
WE NEED TO CHANGE HIS SLEEP CYCLE GRADUALLY.
SLUMP
CLICK
SLUMP
WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING YOU CAN'T BELIEVE
DON'T YOU DOUBLE-CHECK IT LIKE THIS?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
UH...
INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL JUDO TOURNAMENT


YEAH, I GUESS
...DIDN'T YOU DOUBLE-CHECK ME OUT LIKE THAT?
SAY, THE FIRST TIME WE MET
NO.
LOOK WHO'S TALKING!
YOU'RE REALLY WEIRD.
.....
WHO FROM?
DUNNO. THEY HUNG UP.
"The phone's cold."
HE DID THIS NOT TO WAKE ME UP?
INTANA
MALE OR FEMALE?
FEMALE
SHMP
OH, SAY...
YOU GOT A PHONE CALL LAST NIGHT.


THANKS FOR GETTING THE PHONE.
AND SURPRISINGLY, THEY CALLED YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME.
WPR
OH...
OKAY, I GOT IT.
Banana Juice
HELLO.
DID YOU CALL ME LAST NIGHT?
THOUGHT SO
YEAH
SUNDAY?
OH, REALLY?!

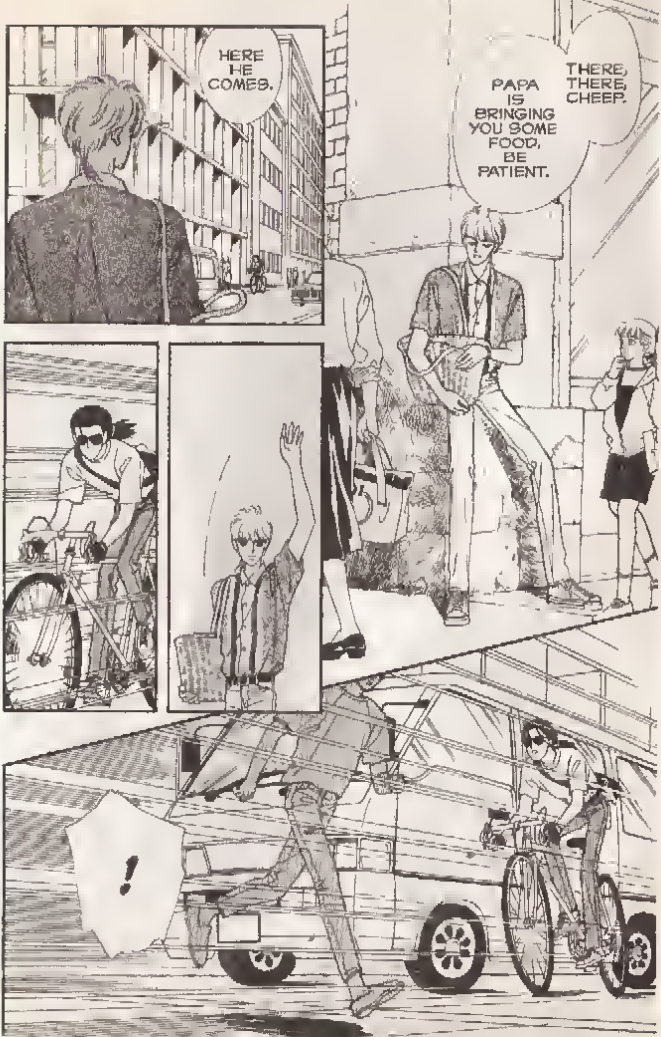
I FORGOT THAT I HAVE TO GO HOME FOR SOME-THING.
KUK
WHAT IS IT?
SORRY... I CAN'T HANG OUT NEXT WEEK
OH, OKAY. CAN'T BE HELPED, THEN.
UH...
I KNOW YOU'RE SAYING THAT FOR MY SAKE.
FLAP
WE'LL MEET UP SOME-WHERE ON SUNDAY.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL TAKE CARE OF CHEEP.

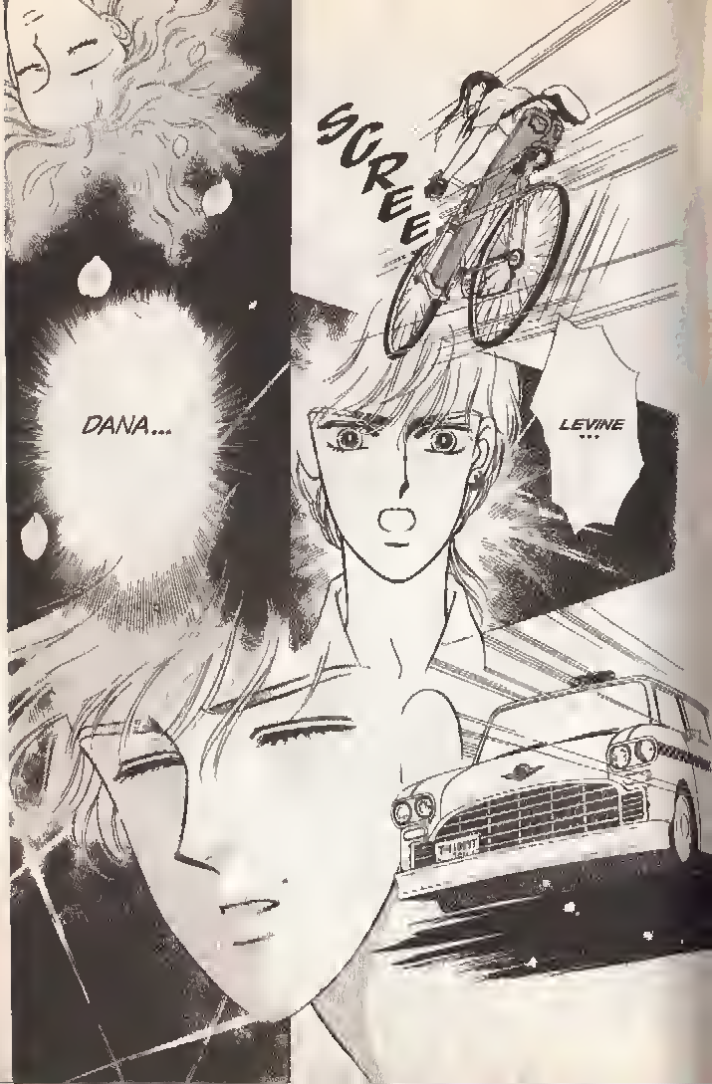
YOU COULD AT LEAST ACT LIKE YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED, YOU JERK!
WHACK
I HATE IT WHEN THINGS GET SPOILED. AND SPOILED ONIONS ARE THE ABSOLUTE WORST!
HUH?
THEY'RE TWO MONTHS OLD!
WHEEEEE
I'M THE ONE WHOSE PLANS GOT SPOILED.
TCH.
STOMP STOMP STOMP
UH ... LEVINE ...
WHAT?
What a drag!

WELL THEN, SHOW IT WHY DON'T YA?
IT BUGS ME WHEN HE GETS HONEST ALL OF A SUDDEN.
I'M...
REALLY DIS-APPOINT-ED
...
SNUP
ROY TOLD ME THE SAME THING.

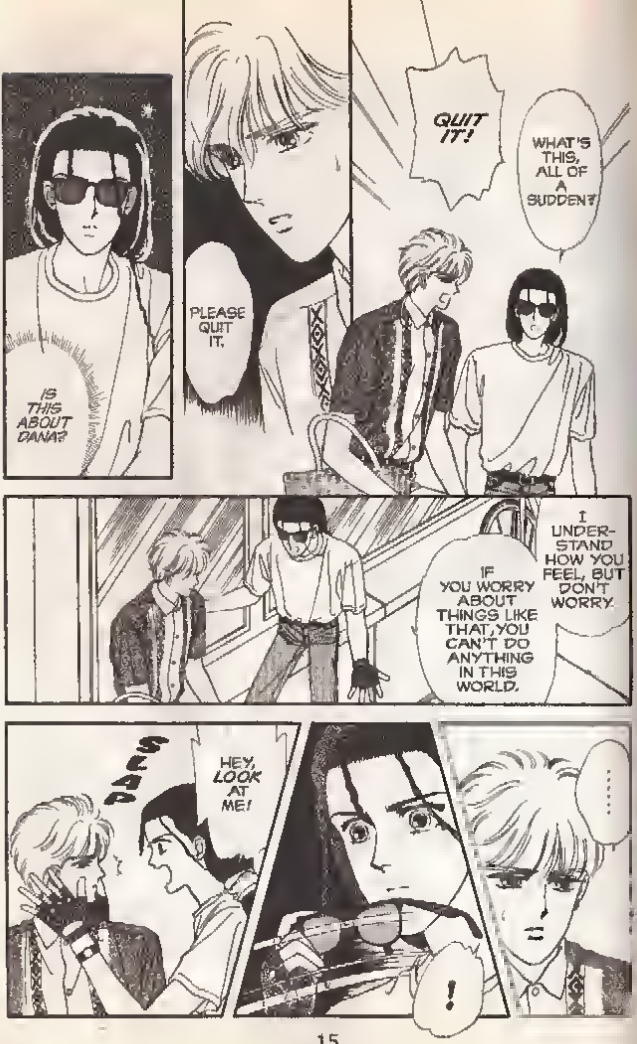
† *Laughing*

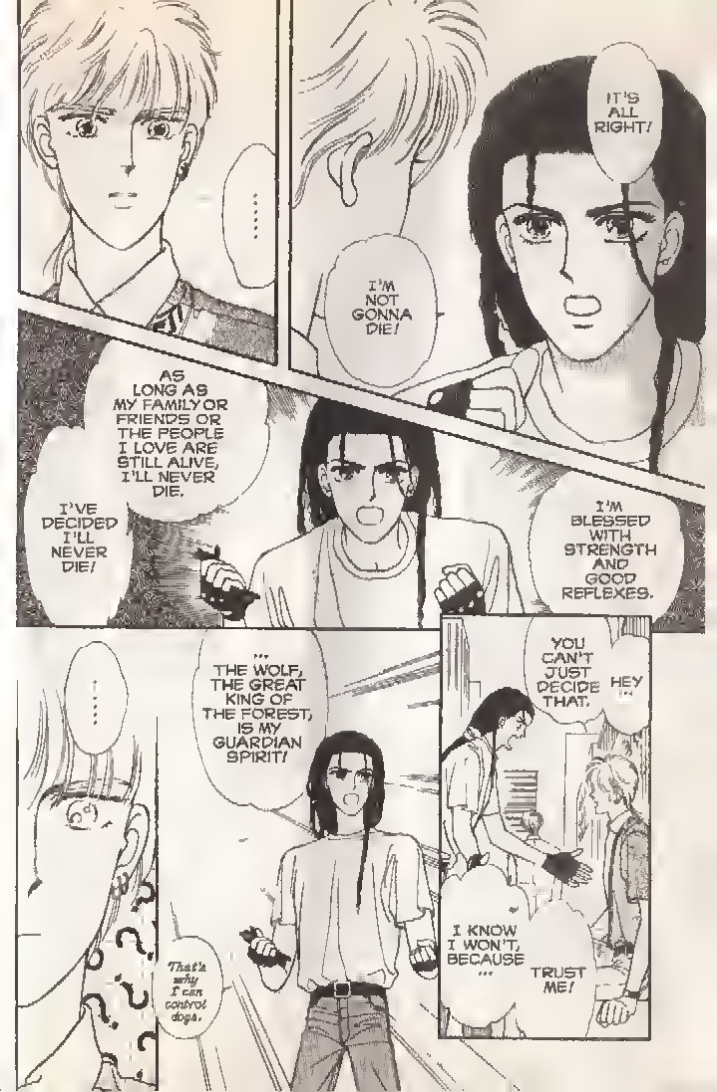
WHAT A COOL BROTH-ER.
REAL-LY?


HERE HE COMES.
THERE, THERE, CHEEP. PAPA IS BRINGING YOU SOME FOOD. BE PATIENT.
!


SCREE...
DANA...
LEVINE...

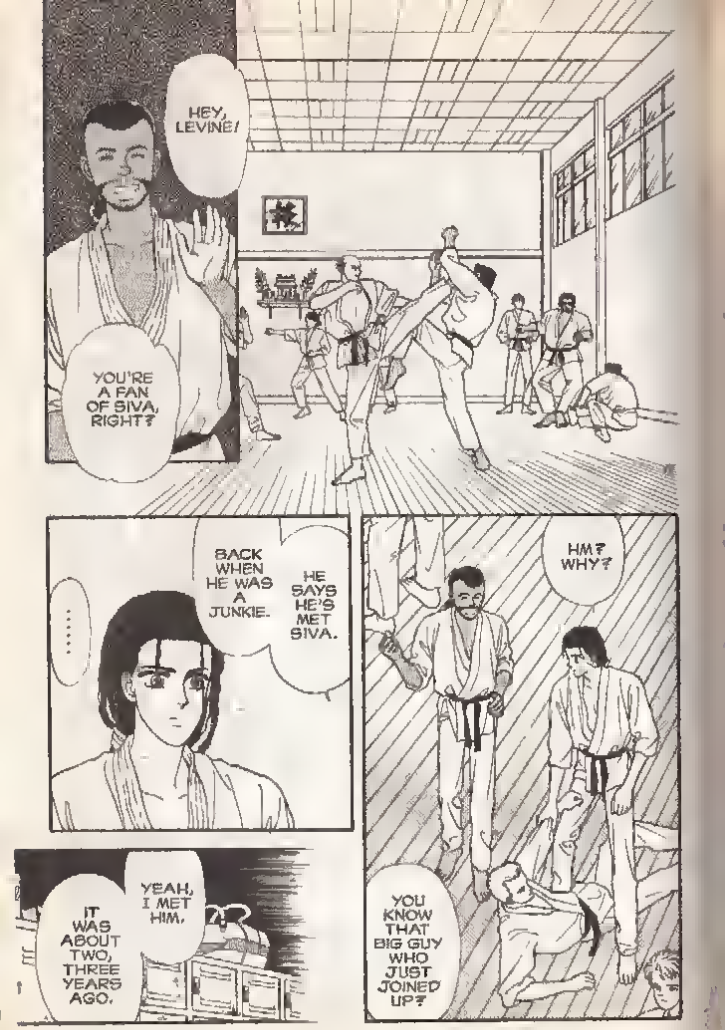
I'M THE ONE THAT ALMOST GOT RUN OVER! WHAT ARE YOU GETTING ALL SICK FOR?
YOU TOTAL WIMP!
AH!
...
QUIT THIS JOB.
LEVINE
IT'S NOTHING TO GET QUEASY ABOUT.
I GOTTA MAKE MOVES LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME WHEN I'M DOING MY BIKE MESSENGER JOB.

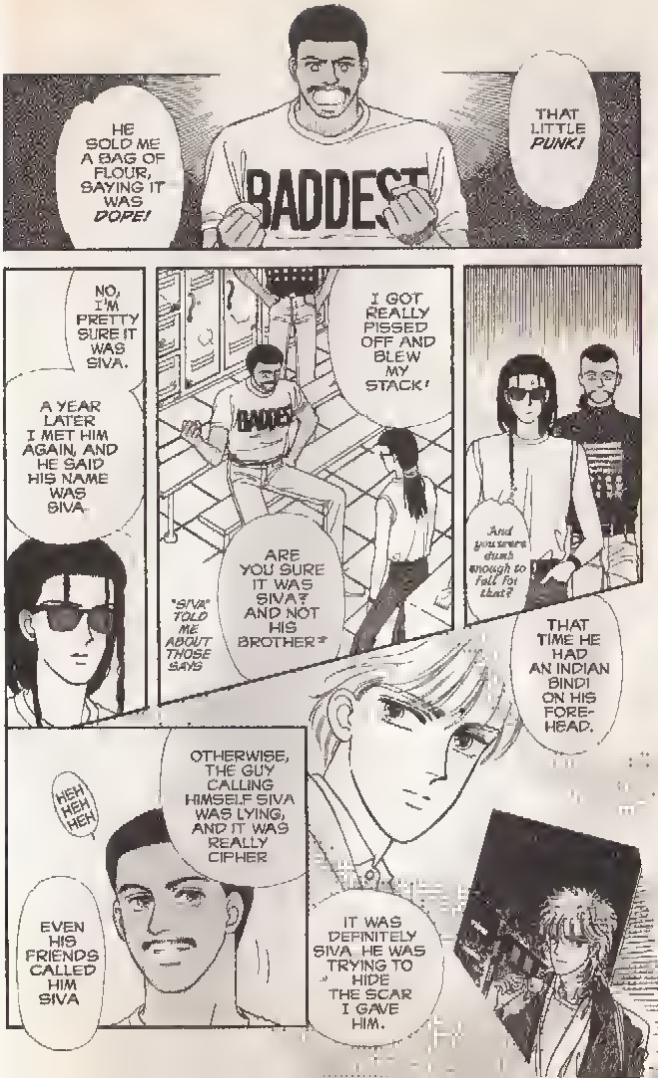

IS THIS ABOUT DANA?
PLEASE QUIT IT.
QUIT IT!
WHAT'S THIS, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT DON'T WORRY.
IF YOU WORRY ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT, YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD.
SCAD
HEY, LOOK AT ME!
.....
!

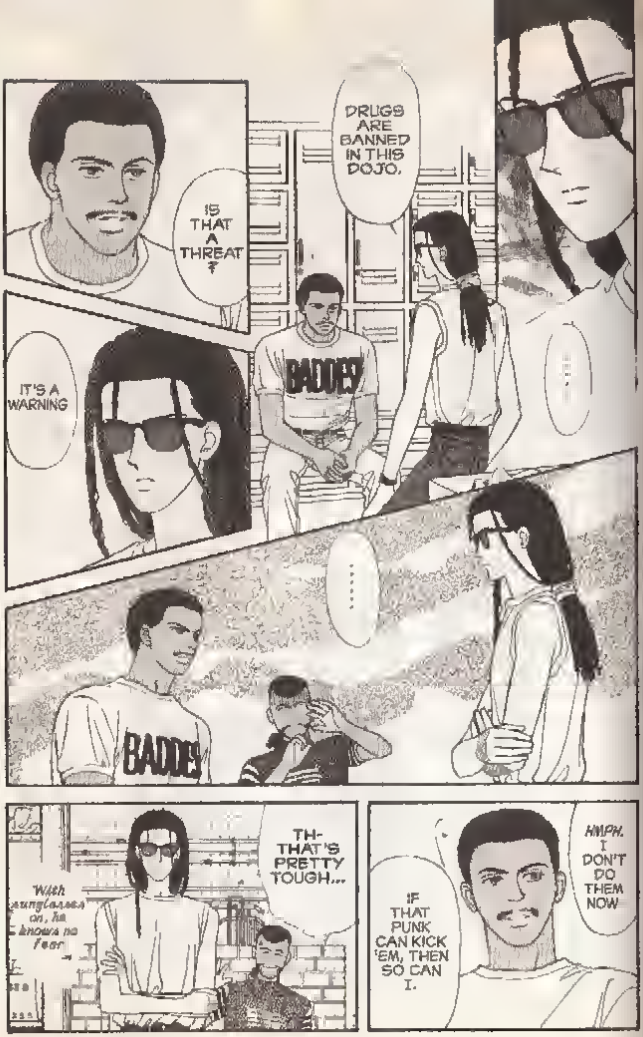

.....
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
I'M NOT GONNA DIE!
I'M BLESSED WITH STRENGTH AND GOOD REFLEXES.
AS LONG AS MY FAMILY OR FRIENDS OR THE PEOPLE I LOVE ARE STILL ALIVE, I'LL NEVER DIE.
I'VE DECIDED I'LL NEVER DIE!
YOU CAN'T JUST DECIDE THAT.
HEY...
I KNOW I WON'T, BECAUSE...
TRUST ME!
...THE WOLF, THE GREAT KING OF THE FOREST, IS MY GUARDIAN SPIRIT!
.....
That's why I can control dogs.

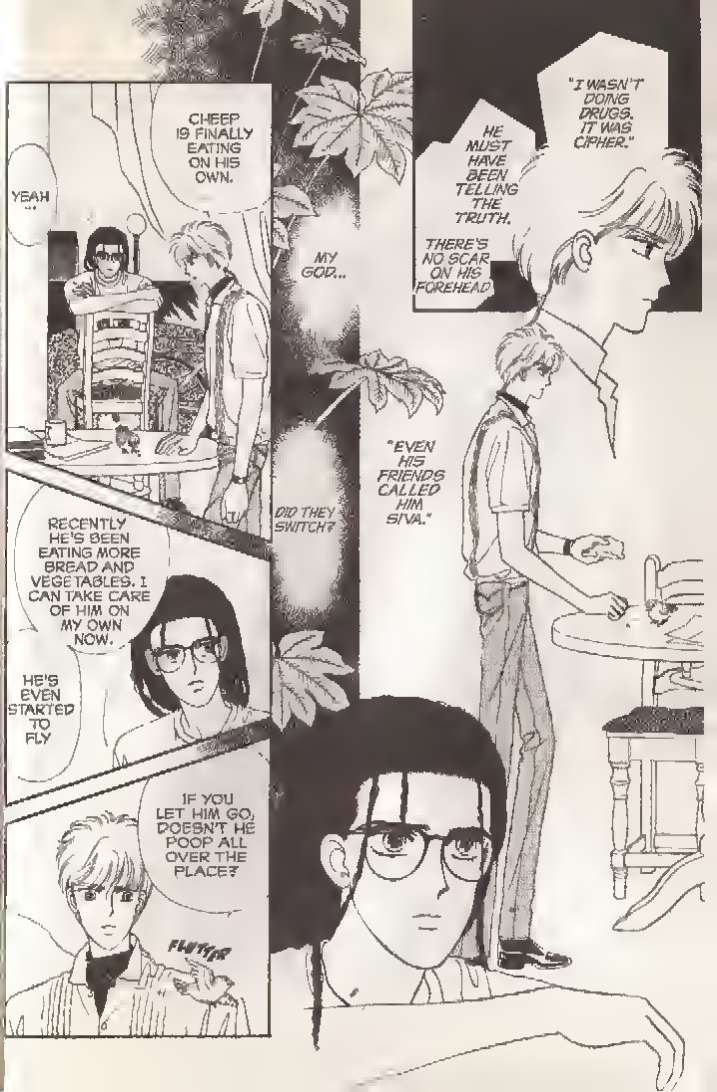
WHY? DID YOU RUN AWAY FROM HOME?
I WENT CAMPING ALONE DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS..
BACK WHEN I WAS NINE YEARS OLD..
WAIT A SEC.
WOLVES ARE EXTINCT AROUND HERE.
HE STARED AT ME FOR A LONG TIME, AND LEFT WITHOUT ATTACKING.
I MET A WOLF THERE.
IT'S AN OLD RITE OF MANHOOD, YOU IDIOT!
I KNOW IT WAS A WOLF.
NO.
DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE DETAILS
ARE YOU SAYING I MET LASSIE?!
WHAT?!
MAYBE IT WAS A COYOTE, OR--
UH.. NO
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO GET A BITE TO--
.....

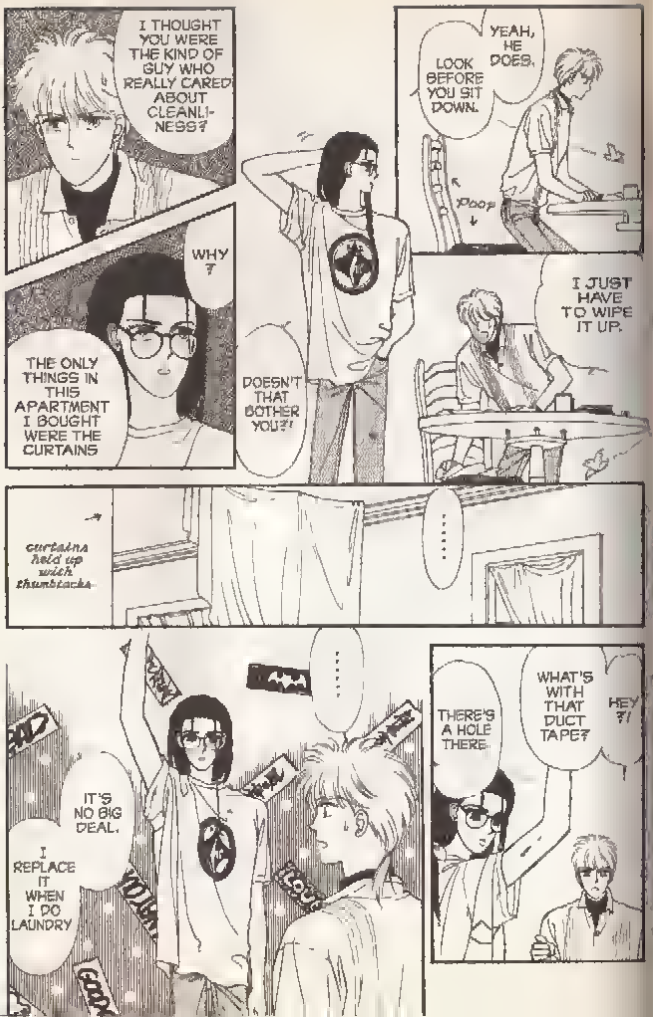
HE'S ALIVE.
HE FELL ASLEEP IN THE DARK.
CHEEP
OH, MAN! I FORGOT!
WHERE'S CHEEP ?!
AND SOFT.
HE'S SO WARM.
WE BETTER FEED HIM SOME-THING.
I MEAN US, DUMMY!
BREAD OR WORMS I GUESS
SO WHAT ABOUT LUNCH ?


HEY, LEVINE!
YOU'RE A FAN OF SIVA, RIGHT?
HE SAYS HE'S MET SIVA.
BACK WHEN HE WAS A JUNKIE.
.....
HM? WHY?
YOU KNOW THAT BIG GUY WHO JUST JOINED UP?
YEAH, I MET HIM.
IT WAS ABOUT TWO, THREE YEARS AGO.


HE SOLD ME A BAG OF FLOUR, SAYING IT WAS DOPE!
BADDEST
THAT LITTLE PUNK!
NO, I'M PRETTY SURE IT WAS SIVA.
A YEAR LATER I MET HIM AGAIN, AND HE SAID HIS NAME WAS SIVA.
I GOT REALLY PISSED OFF AND BLEW MY STACK!
"SIVA" TOLD ME ABOUT THOSE SAYS
ARE YOU SURE IT WAS SIVA? AND NOT HIS BROTHER?
And you were dumb enough to fall for that?
THAT TIME HE HAD AN INDIAN BINDI ON HIS FOREHEAD.
HEH HEH HEH
OTHERWISE, THE GUY CALLING HIMSELF SIVA WAS LYING, AND IT WAS REALLY CIPHER
EVEN HIS FRIENDS CALLED HIM SIVA
IT WAS DEFINITELY SIVA. HE WAS TRYING TO HIDE THE SCAR I GAVE HIM.

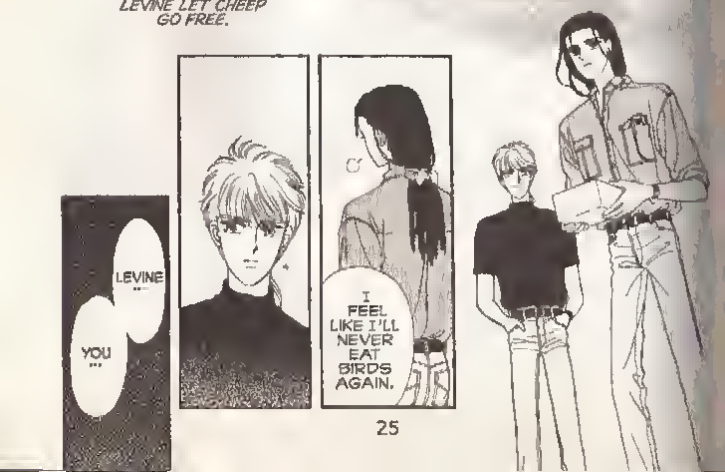

DRUGS ARE BANNED IN THIS DOJO.
IS THAT A THREAT?
IT'S A WARNING
BADDEST
BADDEST
TH-THAT'S PRETTY TOUGH...
With sunglasses on, he knows no fear.
IF THAT PUNK CAN KICK 'EM, THEN SO CAN I.
HMPH. I DON'T DO THEM NOW

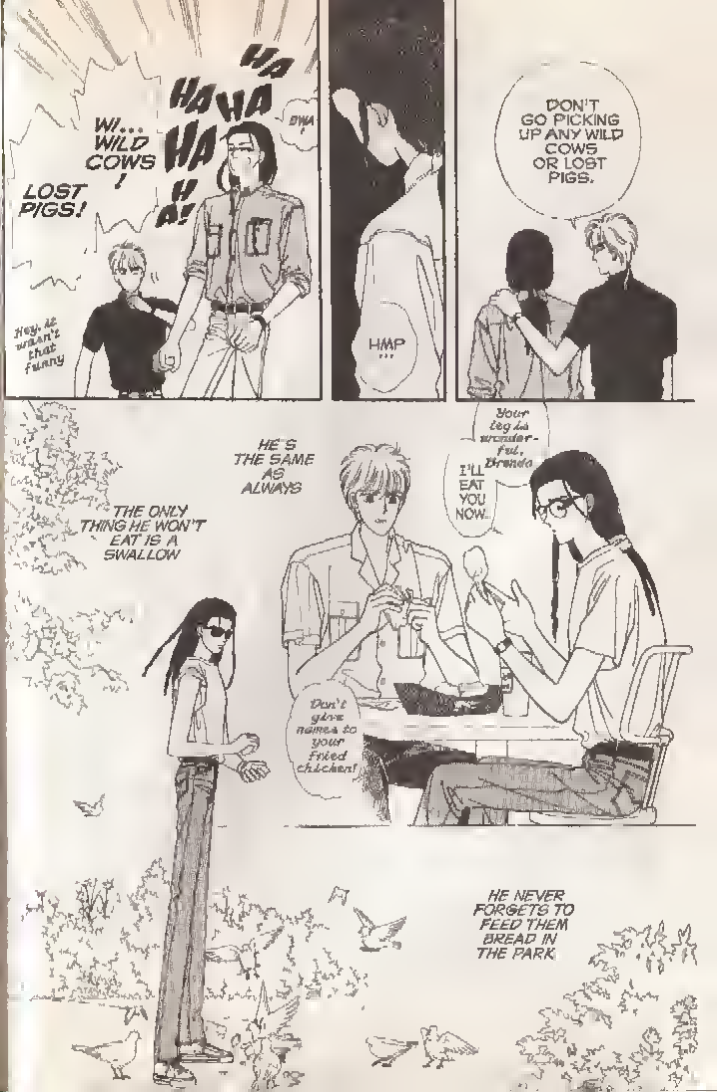

"I WASN'T DOING DRUGS. IT WAS CIPHER."
HE MUST HAVE BEEN TELLING THE TRUTH.
THERE'S NO SCAR ON HIS FOREHEAD
"EVEN HIS FRIENDS CALLED HIM SIVA."
MY GOD...
DID THEY SWITCH?
CHEEP IS FINALLY EATING ON HIS OWN.
YEAH ...
RECENTLY HE'S BEEN EATING MORE BREAD AND VEGETABLES. I CAN TAKE CARE OF HIM ON MY OWN NOW.
HE'S EVEN STARTED TO FLY
IF YOU LET HIM GO, DOESN'T HE POOP ALL OVER THE PLACE?
FLUTTER

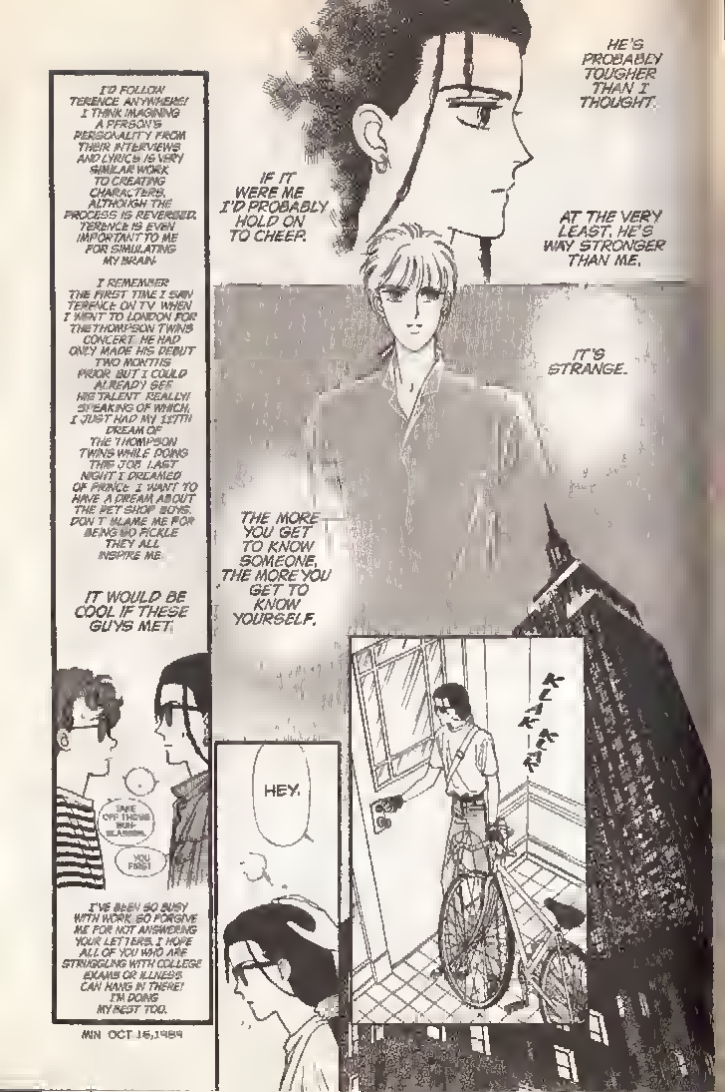

I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE KIND OF GUY WHO REALLY CARED ABOUT CLEANLI-NESS?
WHY?
THE ONLY THINGS IN THIS APARTMENT I BOUGHT WERE THE CURTAINS
DOESN'T THAT BOTHER YOU?!
YEAH, HE DOES.
LOOK BEFORE YOU SIT DOWN.
POOF
I JUST HAVE TO WIPE IT UP.
curtains held up with thumbtacks
.....
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
I REPLACE IT WHEN I DO LAUNDRY
THERE'S A HOLE THERE.
WHAT'S WITH THAT DUCT TAPE?
HEY?!

Especially the complex about your face.
I THINK YOU'VE GOT SOME REAL PSYCHO-LOGICAL IMBALANCES.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
SO HOW COME YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT YOUR CLOTHES WHEN YOU GO OUT?
BECAUSE THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE THINGS THAT MATCH THIS FACE.
I'M BEGINNING TO THINK. .
YOU'RE A FUNNY GUY.
UH ...
THINK SO?
...YOU REALLY AREN'T MUCH OF A MATERIALIST, ARE YOU?
ARE YOU REALLY THINKING ABOUT LETTING HIM OUT?
OF COURSE.
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S SPOILING HIM SO MUCH.
CHEEP
WHAP
HEY.
DON'T HANDLE HIM TOO MUCH. WE CAN'T LET HIM GET ACCUSTOMED TO HUMANS.

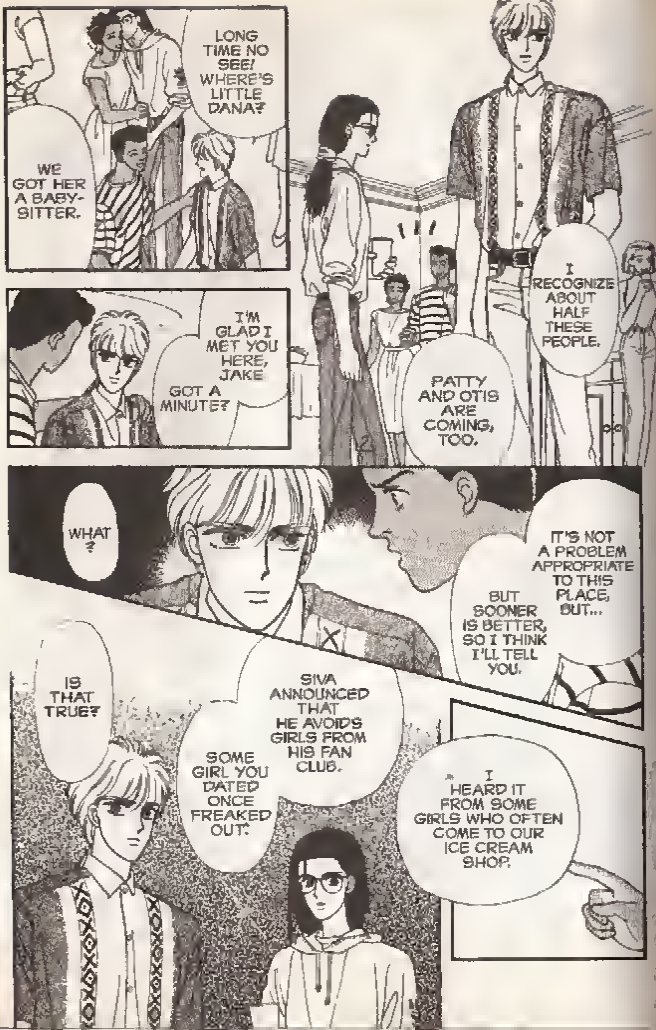
ON A FINE, CLEAR MORNING IN A PARK NEAR WHERE WE FOUND HIM, LEVINE LET CHEEP GO FREE.



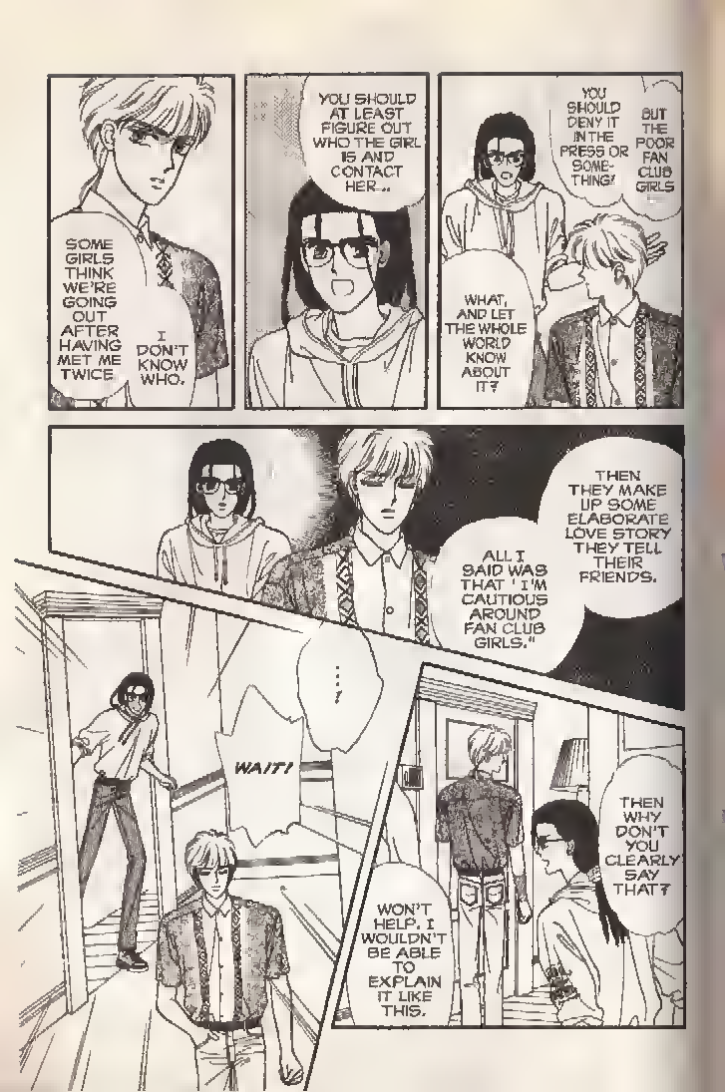

HA HA HA HA!
WI... WILD COWS!
LOST PIGS!
Hey, it wasn't that funny
HMP...
DON'T GO PICKING UP ANY WILD COWS OR LOST PIGS.
HE'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS
THE ONLY THING HE WON'T EAT IS A SWALLOW
Your leg is wonderful, Brenda
I'LL EAT YOU NOW.
Don't give names to your fried chicken!
HE NEVER FORGETS TO FEED THEM BREAD IN THE PARK


I'D FOLLOW TERENCE ANYWHERE! I THINK IMAGINING A PERSON'S PERSONALITY FROM THEIR INTERVIEWS AND LYRICS IS VERY SIMILAR WORK TO CREATING CHARACTERS. ALTHOUGH THE PROCESS IS REVERSED. TERENCE IS EVEN IMPORTANT TO ME FOR STIMULATING MY BRAIN.
I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I SAW TERENCE ON TV WHEN I WENT TO LONDON FOR THE THOMPSON TWINS CONCERT. HE HAD ONLY MADE HIS DEBUT TWO MONTHS PRIOR BUT I COULD ALREADY SEE HIS TALENT. REALLY! SPEAKING OF WHICH, I JUST HAD MY 117TH DREAM OF THE THOMPSON TWINS WHILE DOING THIS JOB. LAST NIGHT I DREAMED OF PRINCE. I WANT TO HAVE A DREAM ABOUT THE PET SHOP BOYS. DON'T BLAME ME FOR BEING SO FICKLE THEY ALL INSPIRE ME.
IT WOULD BE COOL IF THESE GUYS MET.
I'VE BEEN SO BUSY WITH WORK, SO FORGIVE ME FOR NOT ANSWERING YOUR LETTERS. I HOPE ALL OF YOU WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH COLLEGE EXAMS OR ILLNESS CAN HANG IN THERE! I'M DOING MY BEST TOO.
MIN OCT.16,1989
IF IT WERE ME I'D PROBABLY HOLD ON TO CHEER.
HE'S PROBABLY TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT.
AT THE VERY LEAST, HE'S WAY STRONGER THAN ME.
IT'S STRANGE.
THE MORE YOU GET TO KNOW SOMEONE, THE MORE YOU GET TO KNOW YOURSELF.
HEY.
KLAK-KLAK

I WAS INVITED TO A PARTY ON ONE OF THE LOWER FLOORS, SO I CAME EARLY.
AH... THE PEOPLE FROM BEFORE.
AH.
YOU'RE EARLIER THAN USUAL
GOOD THING I DROPPED BY.
HM?
UH... SAY..
"THE GUY CALLING HIMSELF SIVA WAS LYING."
NAH
YOU WANNA COME TO THE PARTY WITH ME?
IS IT OKAY IF I PUT MY STUFF IN YOUR PLACE?
SURE.

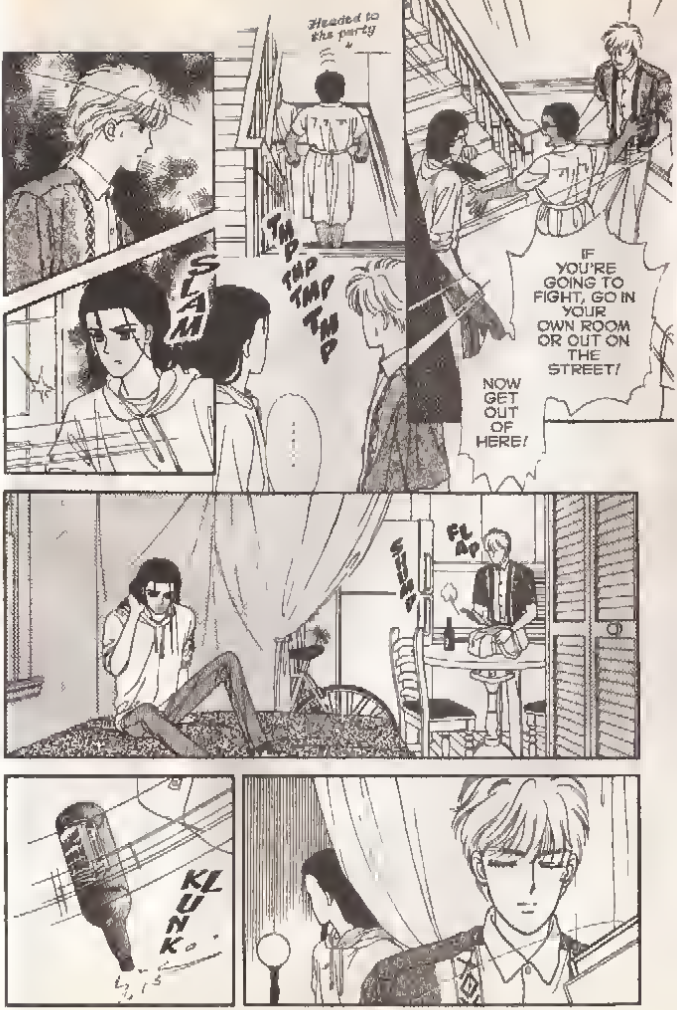

LONG TIME NO SEE! WHERE'S LITTLE DANA?
WE GOT HER A BABY-SITTER.
I'M GLAD I MET YOU HERE, JAKE
GOT A MINUTE?
I RECOGNIZE ABOUT HALF THESE PEOPLE.
PATTY AND OTIS ARE COMING, TOO.
WHAT?
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM APPROPRIATE TO THIS PLACE, BUT...
BUT SOONER IS BETTER, SO I THINK I'LL TELL YOU.
IS THAT TRUE?
SIVA ANNOUNCED THAT HE AVOID'S GIRLS FROM HIS FAN CLUB.
SOME GIRL YOU DATED ONCE FREAKED OUT.
I HEARD IT FROM SOME GIRLS WHO OFTEN COME TO OUR ICE CREAM SHOP.

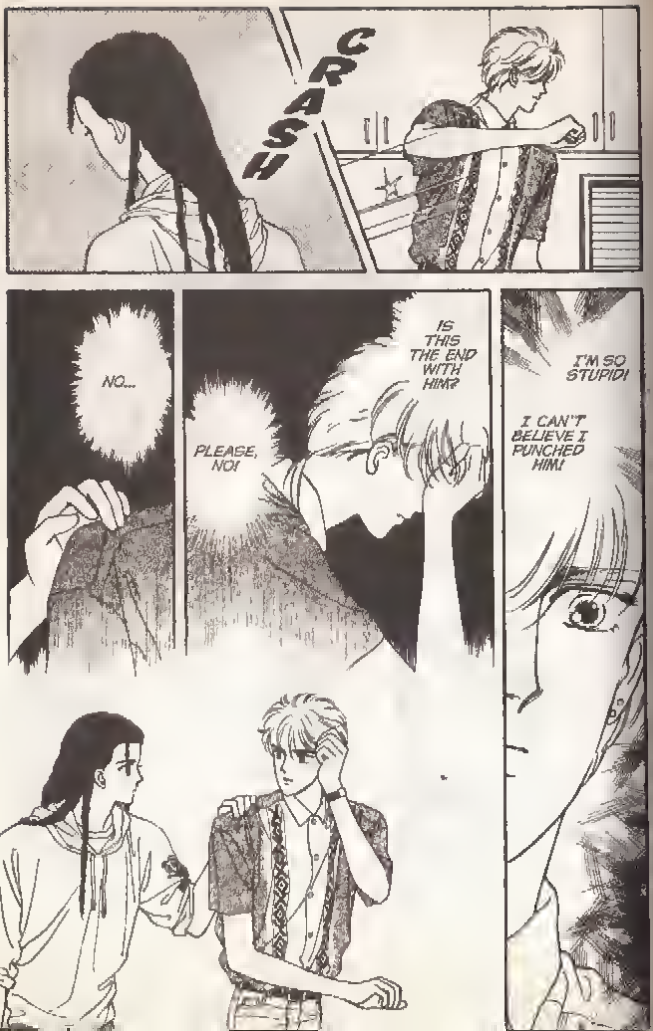
...
I TOLD THEM NOT TO LISTEN TO THAT GOSSIP.
YOU SHOULD MAKE A PUBLIC DENIAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WHATEVER.
I NEVER SAID "NEVER."
THEY'RE NOT ALL THE SAME. THERE'RE ALL KINDS OF GIRLS IN THE FAN CLUB.
YEAH, OKAY. GLAD TO HEAR IT.
I WON'T DO ANYTHING.
WHAT'LL YOU DO?
LEAVE IT ALONE, AND EVENTUALLY PEOPLE WILL GET TIRED OF THE SUBJECT.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO. YOU CAN'T STOP PEOPLE FROM GOSSIPING.

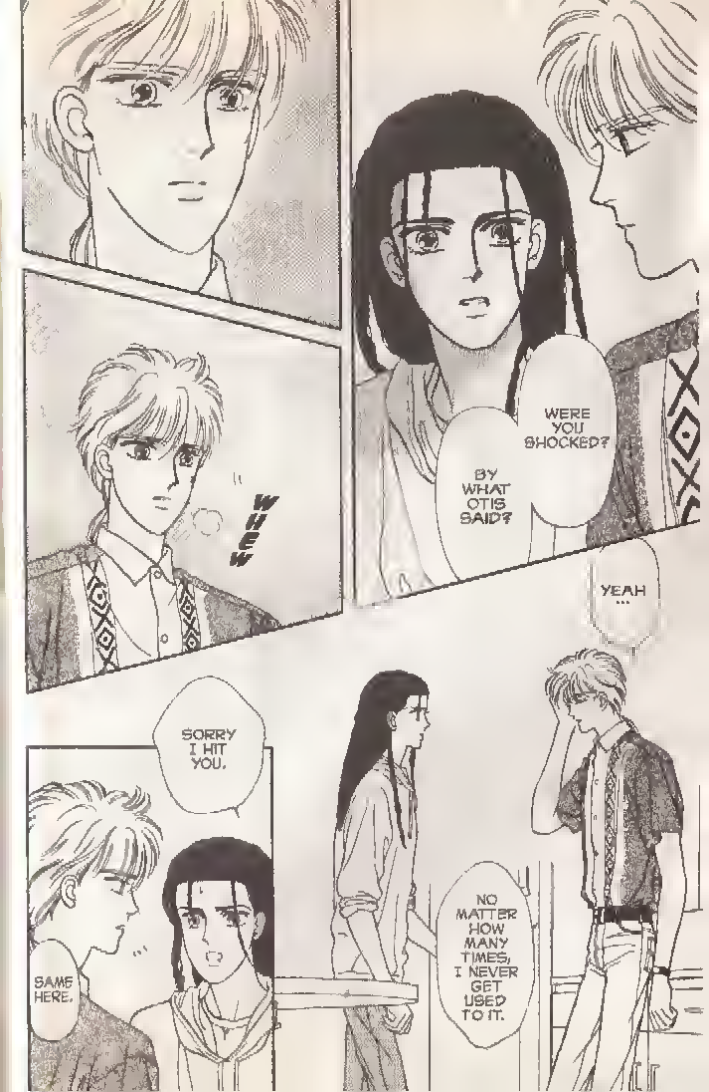

SOME GIRLS THINK WE'RE GOING OUT AFTER HAVING MET ME TWICE
I DON'T KNOW WHO.
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST FIGURE OUT WHO THE GIRL IS AND CONTACT HER...
BUT THE POOR FAN CLUB GIRLS
YOU SHOULD DENY IT IN THE PRESS OR SOMETHING!
WHAT, AND LET THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW ABOUT IT?
THEN THEY MAKE UP SOME ELABORATE LOVE STORY THEY TELL THEIR FRIENDS.
ALL I SAID WAS THAT 'I'M CAUTIOUS AROUND FAN CLUB GIRLS."
...!
WAIT!
THEN WHY DON'T YOU CLEARLY SAY THAT?
WON'T HELP. I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN IT LIKE THIS.

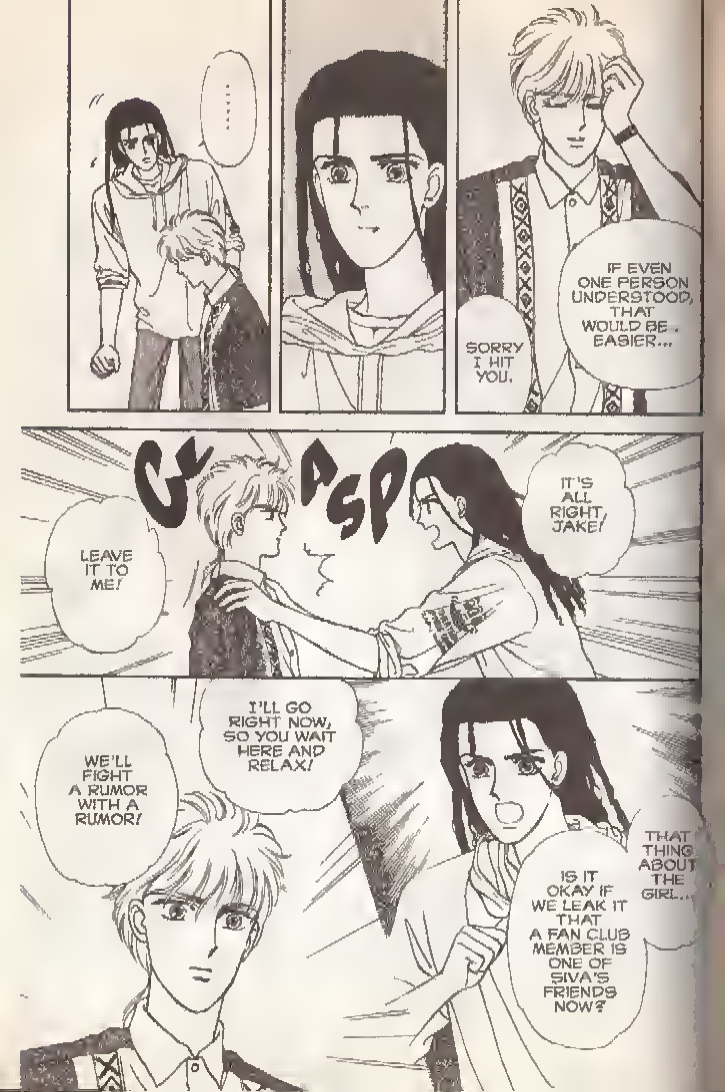
WHY ARE YOU GIVING UP WITHOUT EVEN TRYING?
IT HAPPENS A LOT. IT DOESN'T MEAN ANY-THING.
THAT'S WHAT BUGS ME ABOUT YOU!
THAT'S EXACTLY THE KIND OF THING I CAN'T AGREE WITH!
NOT EVEN YOU UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL.
!
SO HOW DO YOU THINK A PERSON WHO'S NEVER MET ME CAN UNDERSTAND ?!

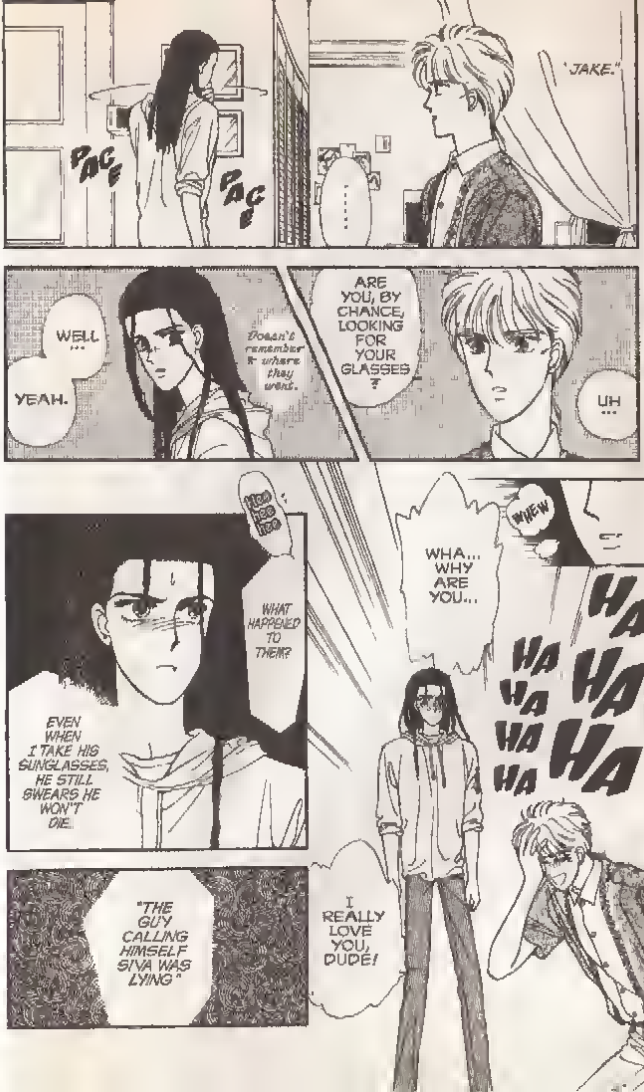
WH
AM
SMACK
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO DOING?!
KNOCK IT OFF!
YOU...

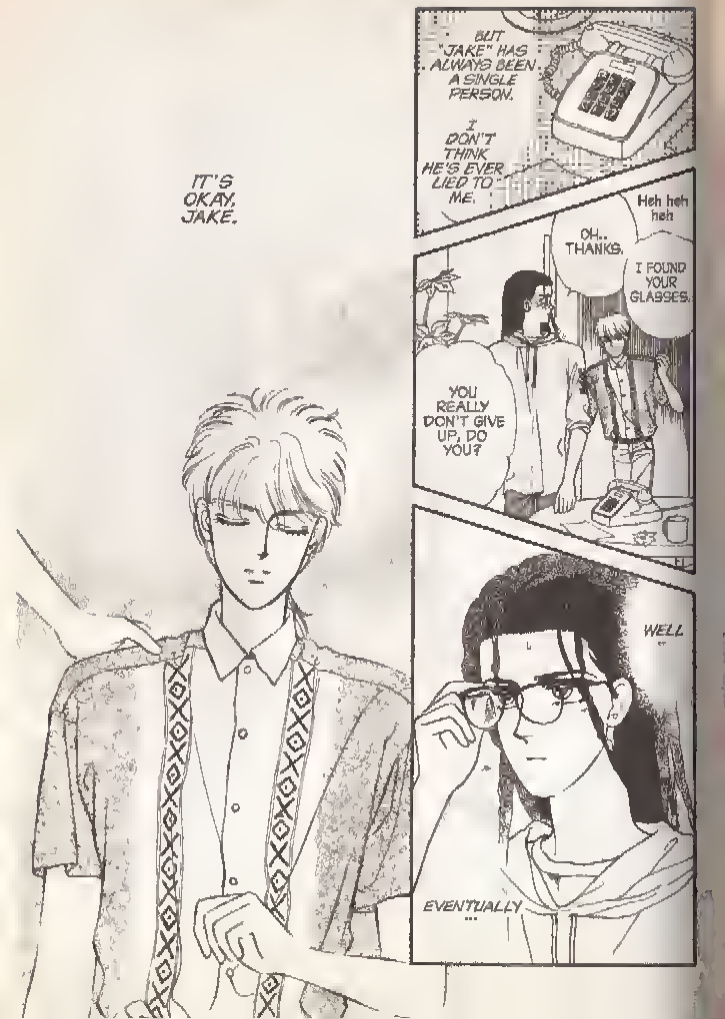

Headed to the party
THUD THUD THUD THUD
SLAM
IF YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT, GO IN YOUR OWN ROOM OR OUT ON THE STREET!
NOW GET OUT OF HERE!
FLAP
SLAM
KLUNK

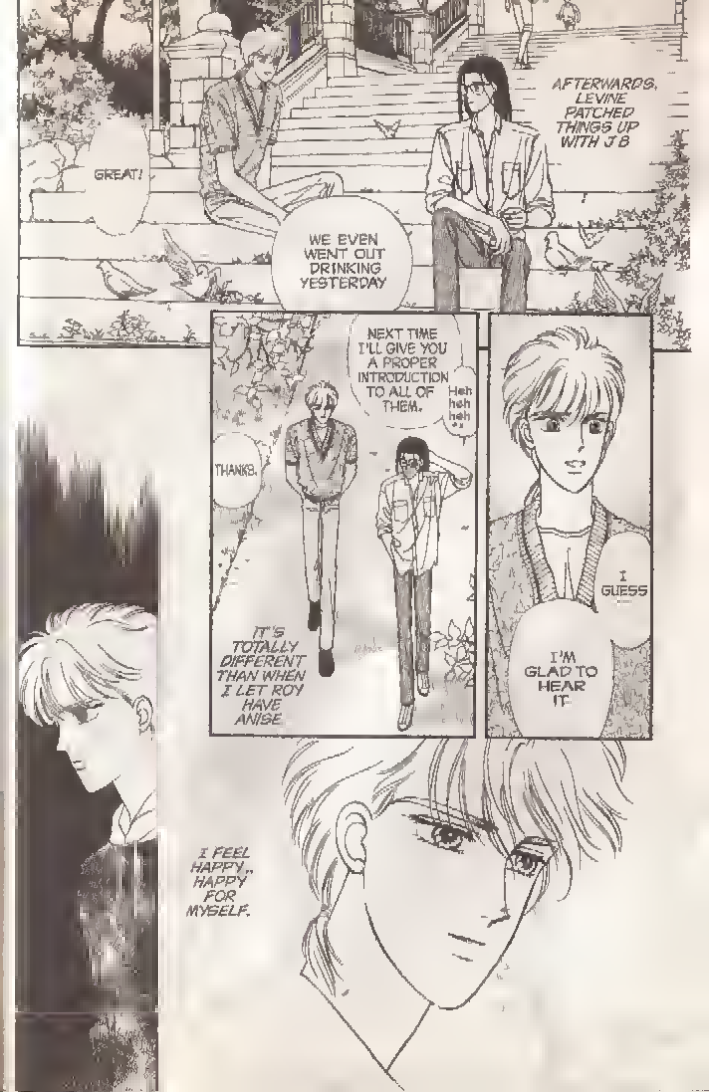

CRASH!
NO...
PLEASE, NO!
IS THIS THE END WITH HIM?
I'M SO STUPID!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I PUNCHED HIM!

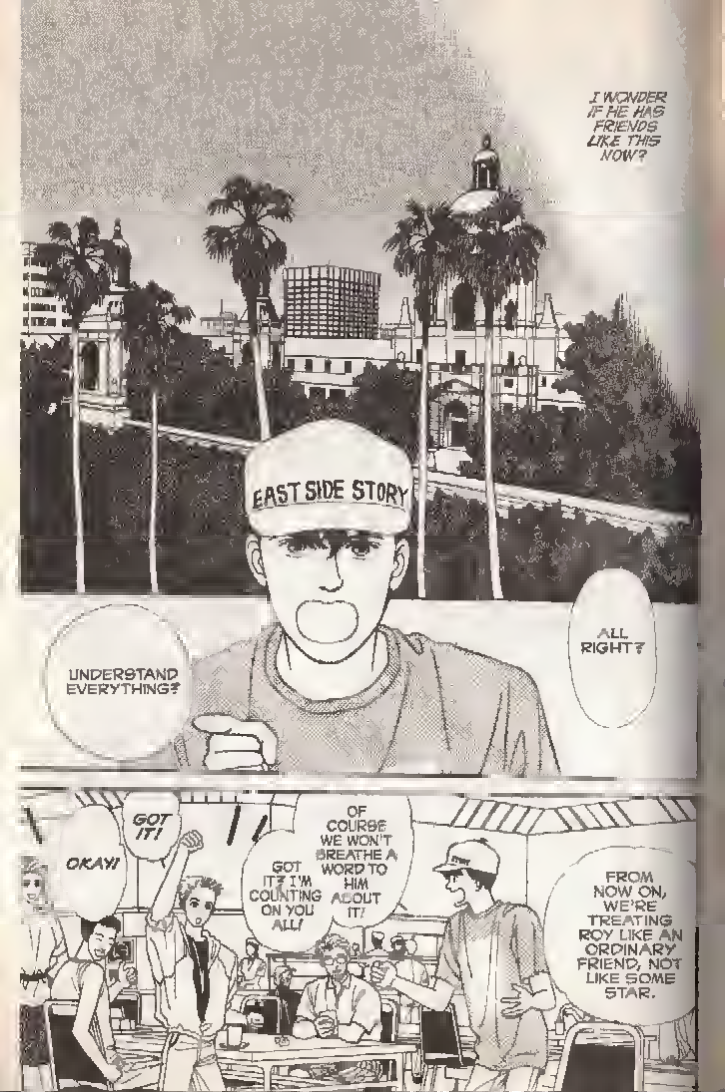

WHEW
WERE YOU SHOCKED?
BY WHAT OTIS SAID?
YEAH ...
SORRY I HIT YOU.
SAME HERE.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES, I NEVER GET USED TO IT.


IF EVEN ONE PERSON UNDERSTOOD, THAT WOULD BE... EASIER...
SORRY I HIT YOU.
GRASP
IT'S ALL RIGHT, JAKE!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
I'LL GO RIGHT NOW, SO YOU WAIT HERE AND RELAX!
WE'LL FIGHT A RUMOR WITH A RUMOR!
IS IT OKAY IF WE LEAK IT THAT A FAN CLUB MEMBER IS ONE OF SIVA'S FRIENDS NOW?
THAT THING ABOUT THE GIRL...


PACE
PACE
"JAKE."
.....
WELL...
YEAH.
Doesn't remember where they went.
ARE YOU, BY CHANCE, LOOKING FOR YOUR GLASSES?
UH...
Hee hee hee
WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?
EVEN WHEN I TAKE HIS SUNGLASSES, HE STILL SWEARS HE WON'T DIE.
"THE GUY CALLING HIMSELF SIVA WAS LYING."
WHEW
WHA... WHY ARE YOU...
HA HA HA HA HA
I REALLY LOVE YOU, DUDE!


BUT "JAKE" HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SINGLE PERSON.
I DON'T THINK HE'S EVER LIED TO ME.
IT'S OKAY, JAKE.
Heh heh heh
OH... THANKS.
I FOUND YOUR GLASSES.
YOU REALLY DON'T GIVE UP, DO YOU?
WELL...
EVENTUALLY...


AFTERWARDS, LEVINE PATCHED THINGS UP WITH J B
GREAT!
WE EVEN WENT OUT DRINKING YESTERDAY
NEXT TIME I'LL GIVE YOU A PROPER INTRODUCTION TO ALL OF THEM.
Heh heh heh
THANKS.
IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN WHEN I LET ROY HAVE ANISE
I GUESS
I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT
I FEEL HAPPY... HAPPY FOR MYSELF.


I WONDER IF HE HAS FRIENDS LIKE THIS NOW?
EAST SIDE STORY
UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING?
ALL RIGHT?
OKAY!
GOT IT!
GOT IT? I'M COUNTING ON YOU ALL!
OF COURSE WE WON'T BREATHE A WORD TO HIM ABOUT IT!
FROM NOW ON, WE'RE TREATING ROY LIKE AN ORDINARY FRIEND, NOT LIKE SOME STAR.

BYE. I'LL BE CARE-FUL FROM NOW ON
I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU.
WAS IT TO "NEW YORK MOLLY"?
I KNOW HER!
YEAH! HOW'D YOU KNOW?
SORRY, HAL I LET SOME INFO ABOUT ROY SLIP OUT ON THE COMPUTER.
IT WAS HARMLESS STUFF, BUT...
Haven't you got a programming job?
It's summer break!
It's my season! Time to party!
BEEP